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<http://studentactivities.tamu.edu/Workshops/studentrecseminar.htm>  
If you have any questions, call Monica at 458-4371.  
Risk Management Services, Department of Student Activities

# Beauty secrets

## Students share pageant experiences

By Erica York  
THE BATTALION

For Gina Ferrer, a graduate student in architecture and the reigning Miss Texas United States, performing in pageants fits her like a glove, or more accurately, like a crown.

"There are two types of people that compete in pageants. There are people there having fun and there are people that are only there to win and they don't care how they do it," Ferrer said.

Students compete in beauty pageants for many reasons, despite any preconceived notions about the contests and the contestants.

When it comes to the stereotypes that accompany being in a beauty pageant, Ferrer said it's not all about physical beauty.

"It isn't about looks because there is the interview process. That's the first thing you're judged on; it's the first impression," Ferrer said. "If you can't get past the interview, you won't ever get to the top five or top 10. It's about personality, poise, confidence and intelligence."

Ferrer said no matter what you do after the interview, the judges are still going to base everything on that first impression.

"If you're on stage and you're in a hideous dress but they liked you in the interview, they might just ignore the dress because you can change that," Ferrer said. "They can overlook the dress, but they can't overlook your personality."

Over the past five years, Ferrer has competed in 12 pageants, and in 2001 she founded the Student Pageant Association (SPA) for women who are interested in participating in the competitions, but don't know how to get started. Ferrer, who serves as internal public relations officer for the SPA, said competing in pageants was intimidating at first, but now it's a lot of fun.

"It's true of life. There are always going to be some bad apples but you've just got to move on and not deal with them."

Ferrer, who will compete in the national pageant in November in North Carolina, said she is excited, but also has worries about her busy schedule.

"I'm just nervous because I have so much to do," Ferrer said. "With school, it makes it really hard to get my work done and my pageant stuff done along with my work as a graduate assistant."

Lyndsey Peterson, a senior accounting major and contestant in the Miss Brazos Valley Beauty Pageant, said girls com-

peting in pageants have to look beyond the stereotypes.

"There are stereotypes for everything in the world," Peterson said. "The public isn't educated about what beauty pageants really are and what they do for girls."

Though pageants can be a big contribution to a hectic schedule, Peterson said pageants are a great opportunity for girls.

"It really helps you prepare for the professional world," Peterson said. "It helps you learn how to speak to large groups of people while under pressure."

Jessica Guzman, a senior biological systems engineering major and first runner-up for the Miss Houston pageant three years in a row, said she didn't start competing in pageants until she was in college.

"The first time I competed, it was miserable. I hated it," Guzman said.

"Everyone told me not to listen to the gossip because everyone is going to have their favorites. For me, I decided this is my hobby, this is something I enjoy and I don't care."

Guzman said the two things that take up the most time are preparing for the interview and getting ready for the swimsuit portion. One of her biggest hindrances is finding the time to exercise, becoming physically fit and looking one's best in a swimsuit, she said.

In addition to a stringent physical routine, Guzman said contestants should be mentally prepared as well.

"A month before the pageant, you need to start comparing and watching the news, but that's just becoming aware. You still need to have an opinion about the things going on around you," Guzman said.

"A lot of times that takes doing some research to know why you feel the way you do."

Preparing for the interview portion can help contestants long after the pageant is over, however.

"Whenever you go watch a pageant, you will see that (winners) have to be well-read and educated," Guzman said.

"The pageant interview helps with job interviewing and getting ready to graduate."



ANGELIQUE FORD • THE BATTALION

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### Argentina company sues Trump for fraud

NEW YORK (AP) — An Arizona clothing manufacturer has sued Ivana Trump for fraud, accusing her of looting her clothing company for personal use.



TRUMP

The civil lawsuit, filed last week in Arizona Superior Court, alleges that Trump illegally transferred assets from her clothing company, House of Ivana, to buy property in Florida and pay for repairs to her yacht, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for Trump had no immediate comment, but said the company would issue a statement later Tuesday.

MPA International, the Phoenix-based manufacturer that filed the suit, also accuses Trump of trying to avoid a \$205,000 bill by transferring House of Ivana assets to another company, Ivana Haute Couture.

The manufacturer is seeking \$205,000, as well as interest and legal fees, from Trump,

the former wife of wealthy New York developer Donald Trump, the Post reported.

#### Nude photos of Miss N.C. turned over

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP) — The former fiancée of Rebekah Revels, the Miss North Carolina who resigned after the Miss America pageant learned about nude photos of her, turned over the pictures Tuesday, her lawyer said.

Attorney Barry Nakell said in Robeson County court that Toshi Welch handed in the photographs just before his contempt hearing was to begin. Nakell would not describe the pictures in detail.

Welsh, an officer with the Cherokee Police Department, left the courtroom without comment. Revels won the crown in June but resigned in July after the Miss America pageant received an e-mail indicating there were nude photos of her.

Revels told pageant officials the e-mail came from Welch. Miss America pageant officials received the e-mail July 19, prompting questions about whether Revels had ever lived with her boyfriend, and whether

nude photos of her existed.

"Would you want to be represented by someone with a past?" the message said. "Nude pics of Miss America bring in big bucks nowadays."

Revels has said she was changing clothes when Welch surprised her by snapping a picture of her topless. She has sued Welch, accusing him of invasion of privacy, interference in her contracts and inflicting emotional distress.

After Revels resigned, she sought to reclaim her crown after the Miss North Carolina Organization signed a contract with runner-up Misty Clymer.

The 24-year-old Revels won a state judge's order last month that restored her title, meaning the state had two Miss North Carolinas. But the judge ruled last week that neither woman could represent the state while Revels' claim against the state pageant for breach of contract is heard.

#### Harris hospitalized after cancer treatment

LONDON (AP) — Richard Harris, who stars as Professor Albus Dumbledore in the Harry Potter movies, has been

hospitalized following treatment for cancer, his agent said Tuesday.

The veteran Irish actor fell ill in August after shooting the second film in the series "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," and went to a hospital with a severe chest infection, said his London-based agent, Sharon Thomas.

She said the 72-year-old has been at the University College Hospital, central London for two months, where he's had a course of chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease.

"He has responded extremely well to treatment. He will be out of hospital very soon," Thomas said.

She said Harris would be available for the third movie based on author J.K. Rowling's boy wizard, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

Hodgkin's disease is the most common type of lymphoma — a cancer of the lymphatic system, which is a network of thin tubes that carry disease-fighting white blood cells throughout the body.

It occurs when the cells grow abnormally and collect to form tumors, often in the lymph nodes.

## Aggie Child

By D. THE

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The Aggies,